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COMMUNICATION OF 22 MAY 1998 RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Attached is a communication received from the Permanent Mission of the Philippines, forwarding a statement by the Government of the Philippines, for the information of Member States.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number.

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PASUGUAN NG PILIPINAS
PHILIPPINE EMBASSY/MISSION
BOTSCHAFT DER PHILIPPINEN
VIENNA, 22 May 1998

Ltr-730-98

Excellency:

I have the honour to enclose a copy of the Philippine statement on the recent nuclear tests conducted by India.

I would highly appreciate it if the IAEA Secretariat could circulate the statement to all member-states of the Agency.

With renewed assurances of my highest esteem.

JOSE A. ZAIDE
Ambassador

H.E. Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei
Director-General
International Atomic Energy Agency
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PRESS RELEASE

Department of Foreign Affairs
PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES UNIT
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
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Press Release No. 093-98 14 May 1998

PHILIPPINE STATEMENT ON THE RECENT NUCLEAR TESTS CONDUCTED BY INDIA

The Philippines joins the many other nations of the world in expressing its serious concern over the detonation of three nuclear devices during tests conducted by the Indian government on Monday, 11 May 1998.

The Philippines continues to work with the vast majority of states in strengthening nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation structures. As such, it finds it ironic that these tests had to be conducted at a time when global attempts to rid the world of nuclear weapons have been moving forward.

The Philippines spared no effort in concluding the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996. It is also actively participating in the process, which seeks to review and strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It also concluded the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone Treaty, to add to the existing nuclear weapons-free zones in the world.

The Philippines believes that these initiatives should be strengthened and expanded and greater focus be placed directly on the issue of nuclear disarmament. The Philippines believes that these are critical elements in our efforts to eventually free the world from these weapons of mass destruction.

The Philippines reiterates its call for an end to nuclear testing and its call for those nations that have not yet done so, to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Philippines hopes that the event in India will not adversely affect the confidence and stability in South Asia.